The Government of Madhya Pradesh is implementing the "Madhya Pradesh Sericulture Project" with financial assistance from Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan for development of both tasar and mulberry sericulture. The project cost of Rs. 117.10 crore envisages establishing of infrastructure for seed production, marketing, reeling research & training facilities and to raise 4000 hectares of tasar food plantation. The programme aims at providing employment to 10,000 persons.

The CSB is implementing a project in collaboration with the Department of Sericulture, Government of Madhya Pradesh to assist decline of railly tasar ecorace with an outlay of Rs. 0.64 crore.

(d) and (e) There has been improvement in the production of tasar(Kosa) raw silk which is as follows:—

Year	Production (in M.Tonnes)
1991-92	16
1996-97 (End of VIII Plan)	33
1997-98 (First year of IX Plan)	97

Export of garments to European countries

930. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of garments exported to European countries during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(b) whether difficulties are being faced by garment exporters in their operations after introduction of new common currency in these countries;

(c) what is the concept of exceptional flexibility under market access agreements and the status of India thereof, and

(d) whether any other textile exporting country has to meet certain obligations under W.T.O., if so, to what extent the new patents ordinance of the country covers such obligations for India?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The details of garments exported to European countries during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise are as follows:

Member States	Value of exports in million US Dollars		
	1996	1997	1998
Germany	526.4	458.2	460.3
France	340.9	366.6	374.8
Italy	129.1	148.8	128.8
Benelux	229.8	228.5	209.0
Denmark	52.4	46.7	47.0
United Kingdom	429.8	387.0	327.7
Ireland	15.4	18.5	18.4
Greece	5.6	4.4	3.8
Spain	61.0	66.4	60.8
Portugal	3.7	2.6	1.6
Sweden	59.5	57.1	52.6
Finland	22.7	20.6	18.0
Austria	41.8	32.8	21.4

(b) The introduction of common currency in the EU does not appear to have posed any difficulties for exports of garments from India to the EU so far.

(c) The Indo-EU MOU on textiles signed on 31-12-1994, inter-alia, has a provision for grant of exceptional flexibility of 7000 tonnes per year during 1994 to 1997 and 8000 tonnes per year from 1998 to 2004. Exceptional flexibility like normal flexibility allow certain swing from one category to another category, carry forward from subsequent year and carry over from previous year. However, these are over and above

the 'normal' flexibility. The EU has however now not agreed to grant exceptional flexibility on the ground that India has not bound its tariff with the WTO, as required under the MOU. So far as latter is concerned it was to be based on certain data to be furnished by the EU, which has since been received. However, certain clarifications in this regard have been sought based on which binding rates of tariffs will be determined.

(d) Members of the WTO are bound by the various Agreements and Understandings comprising the Final Act embodying the results of the Uruguay Round. In respect of the textile sector, there is a separate Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, which is a part of the WTO Agreements. On the other hand the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance 1999 was promulgated to comply with our obligations under the relevant provisions of the TRIPS Agreeement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: House adjourned till 11.00 a.m. on Friday, the 5th March, 1999.

The House then adjourned at one minute past twelve of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 5th March, 1999